NOTE VIII.

REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE NETHERLANDS RECEIVED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 1910 TILL 1 SEPTEMBER 1911

BY

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The increase of the collection of indigenous birds of the Leyden Museum during the last twelve months was an important one. Not less than 787 skins and more than 800 eggs in clutches have been added to the collection. Among the skins there are again some very interesting species such as: *Megalestris skua*, *Cepphus grylle*, *Casarca casarca*, *Picus martius*, all rare birds in our country.

I have the pleasure to mention the following gentlemen, who presented our collection with more or less interesting examples: F. E. Blaauw, J. Boonstra, C. de Bruyn, A. Burdet, C. F. H. Dumont, R. van Eecke, Jhr. W. C. van Heurn, C. J. van der Klaauw, A. Kohlbeck, P. de Koning, E. Loeb, Mr. H. A. Lorentz, M. van Mens, H. M. Rose, Jhr. F. de Roy van Zuidewijn, B. Scheelings, Dr. H. E. Th. van Sillevoldt, Ch. van Spall, G. S. van der Spruyt, the late C. N. Tieleman, F. A. Verster van Wulverhorst, F. H. Verster and J. C. Wäkerlin; more special thanks are due to Messrs. R. van Eecke and Jhr. W. C. van Heurn, the first presented to the Museum a fine collection of indigenous birdskins, 93 specimens belonging to 55 species, the second enriched the Museum with a collection of about 460 eggs in clutches of native birds.

With much regret I have to record the decease of Mr. R. Baron van Zuylen van Nyevelt, master of the Royal hunting-department of the province Zuid-Holland, on February 7th. The Museum loses in him one of its best friends, one, who had the Museum's interests at heart, wherever he could. Warranted by H. M. the Queen he opened the royal demesne to science and enriched our collection of native birds with many specimens. This sad loss will be felt by us long time.

In the following lines I enumerate the more important additions to our collection of indigenous birds.

Podiceps auritus (L.).

An adult male in perfect plumage, shot 10 April 1911 at Anna Paulownapolder, province Noord-Holland, was purchased for our collection. This is the first adult specimen I receive after seven years collecting.

Podiceps nigricollis Brehm.

Also of this grebe, I received a male in full plumage, caught 3 April 1911 at den Helder, the first specimen in this plumage since 1904. A female in winter plumage was shot 28 October 1910 near den Helder and sent to the collection.

Fulmarus glacialis (L.).

An adult female, caught 13 November 1910 at Hornhuizen, province Groningen, has been purchased for our collection.

Oceanodroma leucorrhoa (Vieillot).

This species has visited us last winter in rather large number. The first example, a female, I received 29 September from Texel, where it had been caught the day before; in October, November and December I received 6 other examples from the coast of Groningen.

Casarca casarca (L.).

A male, the second specimen known from the Netherlands, has been shot 5 December 1910 at Serooskerke on Schouwen, province Zeeland. This specimen is, like the first one, in very good condition and shows no traces of confinement.

Netta rufina (Pallas).

I received two females, shot at Nieuwkoop, province Zuid-Holland, 7 August 1911. Of this, in the Netherlands very rare species, we possess at present 12 specimens shot in our country (see Notes Leyden Mus. 1905, p. 196). As examples of this species have been observed in the end of May of this year in our country, it is very likely that it has been nesting here.

Aythia nyroca (Güldenstädt).

This year I received only one example, a female, shot 29 August at Nieuwkoop, province Zuid-Holland.

Grus grus (L.).

A fine old male was caught March 20th near Deurne, province Noord-Brabant, and sent to our Museum. Specimens shot in spring in the Netherlands are rare in collections of native birds.

Vanellus vanellus (L.).

An interesting colour-variation of the common lapwing was shot at Wassenaar, August 17th 1911. Only the upper side of the wings is of normal colour, though somewhat darker. The outer quills are however wholly black. The inner under wingcoverts and the axillaries are black. The other parts are dull black with a faint olive-green gloss, the upper tailcoverts with steel-blue gloss. On the head, the chin, the lower neck, the back, the flanks and among the upper tailcoverts there are some white feathers. The under tailcoverts are black with green gloss. The tail is black, also the bill and the feet.

Megalestris skua (Brünnich).

An adult male, found dead at Huisduinen near den Helder on December 31th 1910, was purchased for our collection. We possess now three skins and one skeleton of specimens shot in our country, the only known ones from the Netherlands (see Notes Leyden Mus. vol. XXX, p. 175 and vol. XXXI, p. 217; Tijdschr. Ned. Dierk. Ver. 2d Ser. XI, 1908—'10, Verslagen p. XLV).

Stercorarius pomarinus (Temminck).

I received a young male, shot 21 December 1910 on the Texelstroom near Texel. This is the fourth specimen I received since 1904.

Stercorarius parasiticus (L.).

Only one specimen, a male, shot 9 September 1910 near Texel, was sent to our collection. The breast in this example is whitish, banded with greyish brown.

Larus glaucus Brünnich.

A fine addition to our collection is an adult male of this species, shot 7 January 1911 at den Helder. This specimen is the third adult one from our country preserved in the Museum; moreover it possesses 9 young ones, shot in our country in the months November, December, January and March.

Larus minutus Pallas.

I received not less than 12 examples last year, shot at Callantsoog, province Noord-Holland, near Texel and on the coast of Groningen, of which 4 are shot in September, 1 in October, 5 in November, 1 in December and 1 in January. In some winters the little gull is a common visitant.

Uria troille (L.) var. **ringvia** Brünnich.

Of the ringed variety three specimens, two males and one female, in winter plumage, shot near Texel 12 December 1910 and 22 January 1911, were sent to our Museum. It is remarkable that this variety is rather rare among the guillemots on our coast.

Cepphus grylle (L.).

The Museum received a female in winter plumage, shot 16 January 1911 near Texel on the Marsdiep. This is the third example in our collection and the fifth known to have been killed in the Netherlands.

Fratercula arctica (L.).

An adult male, caught on Texel 5 January 1911, came in the possession of the Museum.

Picus martius L.

Mr. R. van Eecke, at present assistant in the Entomological Department of our Museum, presented to our collection an adult female of the black woodpecker, which has been shot at Deurne, province Noord-Brabant, 15 November 1910. The Museum possesses now two specimens killed in our country. In the latter years the bird has been observed more frequently.

Motacilla flava thunbergi Billberg.

Also this year I received again 10 specimens of the northern yellow wagtail, caught 15 and 16 May near Harderwijk, province Gelderland, together with some specimens of the common yellow wagtail, *Motacilla flava* L.

Anthus richardi Vieillot.

A moulting female was caught on October 11th 1910 at Harderwijk and purchased for the collection.

Ampelis garrulus L.

I received a male, that has been caught 2 November 1910 on Texel. This is the only example, known to me to have been caught this winter in our country.

Aegiothus linaria (L.).

In the last of October and in November the mealy redpoll has been observed in large numbers in our country. I received about 80 specimens for the collection of the Museum and I had the opportunity to examine a good many other ones. They all belong to the form that breeds in the northern regions. A series of 71 examples, prepared for the collection, I submitted to an exact measurement of the length of the bill and of the wings. This examination learns that the length of the wing, and more the length of the bill, are subject to great variation and that the length of bill and wing are lying between two extremes, that are connected by successive intermediate stages. The so-called long-billed redpoll, *Aegiothus linaria holboellii* (Brehm), cannot be considered as a subspecies, as the larger birds with long bills, which are known under this name, occur always among birds of the common size, at their breeding-places as well as on migration, and are connected with the latter by intermediate forms. The size of the sexes also varies considerably; however, the largest ones, measured by me are males, the smallest ones females. Among these 71 examples I found two specimens, both ♂♂, with a length of bill of 12 mm. and also two specimens, both ♀♀, with a length of bill of 7.5 mm.; the other specimens have a length of bill, that is lying between these two extremes, and that I found in both, males and females. A length of 11.5 mm. I observed in two examples, further 11 mm. in two, 10.5 mm. in two, 10 mm. in ten, 9.5 mm. in six, 9 mm. in twelve, 8.5 mm. in fourteen and 8 mm. in nineteen examples.

The length of wing is also very variable; the longest wing, 80 mm., I observed in a ♂ with a length of bill of 10.5 mm.; the shortest wing, 70 mm., in a ♀ with a length of bill of 8 mm. With a longer bill, as a rule, a longer wing is accompanied.

In one of the males the under tailcoverts are tinged with red.

Of the lesser redpoll, *Aegiothus linaria cabaret* (P. L. S. Müller), I did not receive specimens.

Loxia curvirostra L.

The common crossbill has been observed again all the year round in our country. I received several examples for the collection, all adult ones, no young ones, like last year. A male, caught 1 August 1911 at Harderwijk, is interesting by the conspicuous white wingbars, a feature however, that seems to be not very rare in the common crossbill.

Leyden Museum, September 1911.